

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) An acoustic apparatus comprising:

one or more front ~~speakers~~speakers disposed at front side in a space for outputting a first audio signal;

one or more rear ~~speakers~~speakers disposed at rear side in the space for outputting a second audio signal;

a volume control device for controlling volume ~~level~~levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal;

a balance control device for controlling balance between the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal by attenuating the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal;

an external signal ~~supplying~~supply device for supplying an external audio signal to either one of the front speaker or speakers and the ~~second~~rear speaker or speakers; and

a control device for controlling the volume control device to attenuate the volume ~~level~~levels of the audio ~~signal~~signals when the external audio signal is supplied to one of the front speaker or speakers and the ~~second~~rear speaker or speakers which has not been attenuated by the balance control device and the balance control device attenuates the volume level of said one of the front speaker or speakers and the ~~second~~rear speaker or speakers.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device controls the volume control device to attenuate the volume ~~level~~levels of the audio ~~signals~~signals to a minimum level.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the minimum level comprises a zero level.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a mute instruction unit for detecting a mute instruction inputted by a user, wherein the control device controls the volume control device to attenuate the volume ~~level~~levels of the audio ~~signals~~signals when the mute instruction is detected by the mute instruction unit.

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5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the volume control device sets the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to the volume levels before the external audio signal is supplied, when supply of the external audio signal ends.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control device comprises:

a storage unit for storing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal before the external audio signal is inputted;

a readout unit for reading out the volume levels stored in the storage unit when the supply of the external audio signal ends; and

a changing unit for changing the volume levels of the first audio signal and the second audio signal to be the volume levels readout by the readout unit.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by receiving a signal indicating the supply of the external audio signal from the external signal supplying device.

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8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device detects a supply of the external audio signal by monitoring the external audio signal supplied to the speaker.

9. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control device attenuates the volume levels of the first and the second audio signals to the volume level of the other one of the front speaker and the rear speaker to which the external audio signal is not supplied.